

FOLLOW THE FACTS... (updated 08/12/20)

**[OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN GUIDELINES](#)** from the White House & CDC (via FL Chamber)



## **[STATE AND COUNTY REOPENING PHASE II GUIDELINES](#)**

**The Best Resource for Local Businesses:** <http://floridasbdc.org/disaster/>

**[PINELLAS COUNTY ORDINANCE ON FACE MASKS](#)**

**[PINELLAS COVID-19 DASHBOARD](#)**

**[PINELLAS CARES SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS](#)**

**[FLORIDA REOPENING PHASE II GUIDELINES](#)**

### **GENERAL RESOURCES:**

- **[Complete List of Executive Orders issued by Governor DeSantis](#)**
- [Complete List of Relief Initiatives in Florida](#)
- [FL Dept of Health Coronavirus Dashboard](#)
- [EPA Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines](#)
- [The Center of Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [VISIT FLORIDA resources](#)
- [Pinellas County resource page](#)
- [The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America](#)
- [Florida Businesses Giving Back](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Resources and Guidelines for Business](#)
- **[Apple COVID-19 App](#)**
- **Here's what the [Washington Post](#) is saying about Florida's restart**

### **BUSINESS RESOURCES:**

- **[Small Business Council Toolkit](#)**
- **[Pinellas CARES Small Business Grant Application](#)**
- **[CARES Act Guide for Business Relief](#)**
- **[OSHA Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)**
- [Apply for Disaster Loan Assistance from SBA](#) and see below
- [Apply for Emergency Bridge Loan from Pinellas Co Econ Dev](#)
- [Disaster Prep and Recovery Tools from Pinellas Co Econ Dev](#)
- [Updated Employee Rights Poster \(US Dept of Labor\)](#)

- [Visit St Pete/Clwr Coronavirus update](#)
- [Crisis Management for Businesses from Google](#)
- [FL Chamber Coronavirus Resources](#)
- [FAQ's for Bars and Nightclubs](#)
- [Micro-Grants for Restaurants from JBF](#)
- [Guidance for Businesses and Employers from the CDC](#)
- [COVID Loan Tracker](#)
- [Help Define Future Small Business Assistance: Small Business Loan Survey](#)
- [What does the Safer at Home Order mean for your business?](#)
- [Guide to SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDL\)](#)
- [Guide to the Employee Retention Tax Credit](#)
- [CDC Stop the Spread of Germs Poster](#)
- [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)

#### **EMPLOYEE RESOURCES:**

- [Short Time Compensation Program from DEO](#)
- [Reemployment Assistance from DEO](#)
- [Bartender Emergency Assistance](#)
- [Grants for Hospitality Workers](#)
- [Assistance for Restaurant Employees with Children](#)
- [Temporary Layoff Assistance](#)
- [Guide to Coronavirus Paid Leave Programs](#)
- [Workers' Compensation Insurance Guidance Related to COVID-19](#)

#### **EDUCATION RESOURCES:**

- [042220 Pinellas County Schools newsletter](#)
- [Educational Links for Virtual School](#)

#### **Additional info on SBA Loans:**

Within the recently passed \$2 trillion stimulus and relief bill is a \$349 billion fund, to be managed by the Small Business Administration (SBA), to help small businesses continue to meet ongoing payroll and other critical needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The money is set up to be administered as SBA 7(a) loans to businesses, which means they will be originated by SBA-approved lenders. But the loan would be forgiven if the money spent by the business goes to pay for payroll expenses, rent or lease payments, utility payments or other set areas. Businesses can start applying for the loans on April 3.

“Our small businesses are the economic engines of their communities, and the SBA is ready to provide them with the support they need to remain open and keep their workers employed,” SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza said in a statement. “With our whole-of-government approach led by

the president, we are providing small businesses with the resources they need to get them through this unprecedented time.”

The fund also will be open to individuals who operate under a sole proprietorship or as an independent contractor. It also includes eligible self-employed individuals, defined as someone who:

1. “Regularly carries on any trade or business within the meaning of section 1402 of such Code, and
2. Would be entitled to receive paid leave during the taxable year pursuant to the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act if the individual were an employee of an employer (other than himself or herself).”

An eligible self-employed individual, independent contractor, or sole proprietorship seeking a covered loan shall submit such documentation as is necessary to establish such individual as eligible, including payroll tax filings reported to the Internal Revenue Service, Forms 1099–MISC, and income and expenses from the sole proprietorship.

Businesses which are a small business concern, as defined by the Small Business Act, are eligible for the loans during the covered period between Feb. 15 and June 30, 2020. That means they have 500 employees or fewer, and in the case of the title industry, have \$7 million or less in gross annual revenue.

Loans are available for as much as \$10 million, although there are formulas which could limit the amount available depending on the company’s expenses over the past year. The maximum a business can apply for is the average monthly payroll cost from the previous 12 months multiplied by 2.5 – again, with an upper limit of \$10 million.

The term payroll cost includes salary, tips, sick or vacation pay, sick or parental leave, health care costs, retirement benefits (401k match) and state or local payroll taxes. Owners also can include their income in this calculation.

These loans are made available to help businesses pay:

- “(I) payroll costs;
- (II) costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums;
- (III) employee salaries, commissions, or similar compensations;
- (IV) payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a mortgage obligation);
- (V) rent (including rent under a lease agreement);
- (VI) utilities; and
- (VII) interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the covered period.”

To be eligible, a company had to be in operation Feb. 15, 2020, and had employees for whom the business paid salaries and payroll taxes or paid independent contractors who reported on Form 1099-MISC.

Loan recipients are required to make a good-faith certification about the effect of COVID-19 on the ability of the business to meet its obligations. The certification would state:

1. That the uncertainty of current economic conditions makes necessary the loan request to support the ongoing operations of the eligible recipient;

2. Acknowledge that funds will be used to retain workers and maintain payroll or make mortgage payments, lease payments, and utility payments;
3. That the eligible recipient does not have an application pending for a loan under this subsection for the same purpose and duplicative of amounts applied for or received under a covered loan; and
4. During the period beginning on Feb. 15, 2020, and ending on Dec. 31, 2020, that the eligible recipient has not received amounts under this subsection for the same purpose and duplicative of amounts applied for or received under a covered loan

The loan would have no fees and bear an interest rate that would not exceed 4 percent. However, the loan would be forgiven by the lender in amount equal to the sum of the following costs incurred and payments made during the covered period:

1. Payroll costs.
2. Any payment of interest on any covered mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a covered mortgage obligation).
3. Any payment on any covered rent obligation.
4. Any covered utility payment.

Amounts which have been forgiven under this section shall be considered canceled indebtedness by a lender authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act.

The expected forgiveness amount would include the amount of principal a lender reasonably expects a borrower to expend during an eight-week period beginning on the date of origination on:

- A. Payroll costs;
- B. Payments of interest on any covered mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a covered mortgage obligation);
- C. Payments on any covered rent obligation; and
- D. Covered utility payments

There is no minimum loan amount, so if a business wanted to borrow its forgivable costs for an eight-week period, the loan would convert to a grant, and the business would have no other obligation.

If the business asked for a loan amount greater than the forgivable expenses, the remainder of the loan would be repayable as a 10-year loan with an interest rate of no more than 4 percent.